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RECENT FREUDIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Mechanisms of character formation; an introduction to psychoanalysis. By WILLIAM A. WHITE. New York, Macmillan Co., 1916.

The history and practice of psychoanalysis. By PAUL BJERRE. Authorized translation by Elizabeth N. Barrow. Boston, Richard G. Badger (c. 1916). 294 p.

Rational sex ethics. By W. F. ROBIE. Boston, Richard G. Badger (c. 1916). 356 p.

The psychoanalytic method. By OSKAR PFISTER. Authorized translation by Charles Rockwell Payne. New York, Moffat, Yard and Co., 1917. 588 p.

The neurotic constitution; outlines of a comparative individualistic psychology and psychotherapy. By ALFRED ADLER. Authorized English translation by Bernard Glueck and John E. Lind. New York, Moffat, Yard and Co., 1917. 456 p.

Contributions to psycho-analysis. By S. FERENCZI. Authorized translation by Ernest Jones. Boston, Richard G. Badger (c. 1916). 288 p.

Leonardo da Vinci; a psychosexual study of an infantile reminiscence. By SIGMUND FREUD. Translated by A. A. Brill. New York, Moffat, Yard and Co., 1916. 130 p.

Wit and its relation to the unconscious. By SIGMUND FREUD. Authorized English edition by A. A. Brill. New York, Moffat, Yard and Co., 1916. 388 p.

For a long time students of psychoanalysis had to read German, but within recent years we have now already a considerable and rapidly growing body of literature in English. The above works have appeared almost simultaneously, all of them in America.

Of these the most important is that of White, because he attempts to give a general epitome of the leading topics, addressed not specifically to physicians but to psychologists and the interested public. His work is divided into thirteen chapters. He first gives us a genetic approach to consciousness, with an excellent, though perhaps somewhat inadequate, discussion of that most vexed of all problems, the relations of the foreconscious to the unconscious. Then follow chapters on conflict, symbolism, dream mechanism, the family romance, two chapters on the will to power, extro- and intro-version, and the resolution of the conflict.

Another independent treatment, although far more elementary and inadequate, is the work of Bjerre, who goes back to Kant and then passes on to Wetterstrand and the Nancy School, then discussing psychoanalysis as a science and method of treatment, the Adler doctrine of neuroses, the nature of hypnosis, the conscious versus the unconscious, extracts from a case history, points of view, and the outlook. The attitude of the author of this book, while expressing great appreciation of Freud and giving considerable time to a popular exposition of his views, is on the whole unconverted and somewhat critical, magnifying, perhaps somewhat beyond bounds, the differences between the different expositors.

Robie's work perhaps hardly belongs in the Freudian literature. Nevertheless he believes in and has made extensive use of psychoanalysis, but his attitude remains somewhat independent. He treats sex matters with the greatest frankness and gives many cases of his own.

Of the translations, Payne's of Pfister's comprehensive work is by far the most important. Pfister is a young Zurich pastor, an ardent disciple of Freud, who has already published a number of interesting original studies of his own, and who here presents a sketch of the entire movement, epitomizing the views of its leaders, and even those of Adler and Jung, although his own sympathies are mainly with Freud.

The translation of Adler also meets a long-felt want because this work, although published several years ago in Germany, represents the great schism led by the author, who substitutes the horror of inferiority, the ambition to do something and be of importance in the world, for the sex theory of Freud. His manly protest, his doctrine of compensation, are invaluable new contributions not only to normal but to abnormal psychology.

Ferenczi is perhaps second only to Jung and Adler, among those inspired by Freud, in originality and independence, and here we have his most important contribution.

The two translations of Freud by Brill, who has already rendered us much service in this field, enable the English readers now, with the aid of his other translations, to come into almost first-hand contact with the founder of the new analytic school.

G. S. H.